Eric Asboe has written a letter every day since October. "I know how special and great it can be to find a letter waiting for you," said Asboe, who writes letters for "A Literal Letter Service," an Iowa City group that writes and sends letters for free.

"A lot has changed since we started," Asboe said, noting they have written close to 200 letters. "I didn’t think it would go this long." The letters are more than mail-order business. They are an attempt to keep customers coming back and sending them out. send them out.

"There’s an intentionality of keeping a daily job. And the best part? It’s something you can’t accidentally keep customers coming back. It’s something you can’t accidentally do," Asboe said. "I know how special and great it can be to find a letter waiting for you.

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The idea for A Literal Letter Service came from the ashes of Public Space One. Originally intended to be a "wacky fundraiser" or public stunt for the nonprofit art and performance venue, it has now transformed into a daily job.

"A lot has changed since we started," Asboe said, noting they have written close to 200 letters. "I didn’t think it would happen as often or go for as long."

"We are limited in that regard, but there is nothing stopping state legislators from passing this essentially," said Asboe. "They'll know this is a real issue and a real problem. This is the culmination of a pretty massive understanding."
Elon Musk, SpaceX rocket, has launched a satellite into orbit, improving internet access for underserved communities around the world. This is the latest in a series of efforts by the company to expand its Starlink service, which aims to provide broadband internet to remote and rural areas. The launch comes as the company continues to face criticism over the potential environmental impact of its rocket launches. Musk has also stated that the Starlink project is a key part of his vision to establish a sustainable space mission, with the goal of one day sending humanity to Mars. The success of this latest launch is seen as a significant step towards achieving this goal.
MARIJUANA CONTINUED FROM 1A
Because of various other issues and a shortened legisla- tion session expected by the end of March instead of April, Jessen said, he does not envision legisla- tors having the time to approve the bill in 2010. Wednesday’s recommenda- tions would also give the Board of Pharmacy the choice to form a committee to advise legislators on properly drafting a bill.

Con. Joe Bolich, D-Iowa City, an advocate of the Iowa Grocery and Food Industry Action Council, said the recommendations should have focused more on the needs of the state’s rural areas.

His concerns were about the council’s decision to work on one issue at a time, which bolishes the concept of their recommendations coming home to roost.

“I’ve heard from many Iowans who suffer in chron- ic pain from debilitating conditions,” Bolich told the ZH. “I believe they would get the benefit and pain relief if they had access to medical marijuana.”

The deciding group, con- sisting of four Board of Pharmacy members and two public participants, made the recommendation after roughly six months of research and testimony.

The board, at the urging of the American Civil Lib- erties Union of Iowa Found- ation, conducted four pub- lic forums from August to December and put the recommendation together on one on the campus campus.

Bolich said the people testified at these forums about the personal benefits they have seen from medical marijuana.

The board looked careful- ly at the testimony and re- sults as well as result from the 14 states that have successfully legalized medical marijua- na, before making a decision, Jessen said.

Jessen also pored over scientific data presented by ACLU officials at the final forum on Nov. 6, before he felt comfortable enough to begin deliberating.

“We looked at this as some- thing beneficial to the State and many Iowans,” Jessen said. “We had to make sure it was medically acceptable if used responsibly.”

Despite the wealth of support from state officials, some UI students are still unsure on the issue.

“I’m supportive of the idea, but I can see where it would pose problems,” said UI sophomore Natasha Sanger. “If the legislation were to pass, I think many people might use it as an excuse to get their hands on it. But if that’s scientific- al evidence that medical marijuana can help people, then I think we should support it.

One letter was typed on the back of a note saying “see photo of a girl wearing fish net and roll tops, Dukum said, and another was written on Styrofoam and then stuck in the oven.

The creativity of the idea is among reasons Abel and Engel- bruch’s service has sus- tained on campus since its incep- tion.

“There’s just incredibly generous guys who are both really approachable and something interesting that not everyone is willing to do,” Komdat said. “It’s a great opportunity for them to kind of doing something a lot more little interesting.”

The order form for An A Lateral Letter Service Let- ters, which can be found online, allows the cus- tomer to choose which office she or he wants it written to. “Generally ab- lant,” “light like helium,” “cryptically enigmatic,” “authoritatively empty,” “cruel but kind,” “sly” and “nervous” are just a few of the options.

Engelbrecht said his favorite twist to write is in mathematically precise prose, because “no one actually writes letters like that.”

But it’s the campy quality of the notes that makes it so enjoyable, he said. Both he and Asboe sign each letter.

“I think I’ve received a few a grandma’s in our time,” Engelbrecht said. “A lot of people are pretty funny.

SMILES CONTINUED FROM 1A
“These families come from a very different world in Guatemala, and they’re subsistence farmers,” said John Canady, a plastic sur- geon at the UI Hospitals and Clinics who has gone on similar service trips for 20 years.

It’s not necessarily a lack of local skill to perform the surgeries but a lack of money for costly supplies.

The team budgets around $35,000 for the trip, Wallau said. Their funds come from rotary clubs in the area and personal donations.

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“Everyone was extremely engaged and busy working through the day,” said Beth Ingram, the associ- ated director of instructional services and support for the Office of Teaching and Learning. “There aren’t many people who sit behind a desk and do what we do every day one during the day,” said Beth Ingram, the associ- ated director of undergrad- uate programs.

Mr. Asboe said they don’t
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CLASSROOMS CONTINUED FROM 1A

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During December that closed-circuit television has no effect on deterring crime in town centers. His research showed that camera decrease vehicle crime in closed parking structures.

As a rule, we should rely on cops to crack down on crime, rather than cameras. The group shouldn’t even consider installing cameras unless its members have clear evidence the cameras are effective in public settings comparable to the Pedestrian Mall.

In addition, we have to recognize the difference between public and private. In the case of allowing a private group — the Downtown Association — to install cameras that monitor a public place, there would be no debate if these business associations would not have the freedom to install and submit tape to the police when crime occurs there. It is their business Associations to have the freedom to expand private businesses’ pursue a public interest.

If the city wants to save money, it could tax the downtown to transfer control private hands, you concurrently give the Downtown a tax calculation, have in what way with what is possible, and private operators, rather than what happens to the Downtown’s officers for this economic down, when necessary.

If the city wants to have cameras downtown, let’s not forget money, it could tax the downtown to transfer control private hands, you concurrently give the Downtown a tax calculation, have in what way with what is possible, and private operators, rather than what happens to the Downtown’s officers for this economic down, when necessary.

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Cedar Rapids Lindele Mall
Coralville Coral Ridge Mall
COLUMBUS, Ohio — JaQuan Johnson scored 24 points and hit big shots to lead the No. 12 Buckeyes (20-7, 10-4) into the Big Ten's first-place tie with No. 5 Purdue (20-5, 11-3). The Buckeyes led 50-43 with 16:17 remaining and 56-46 with 12:58 to go but trudged through most of the contest.

Purdue's first 16 points in the second half came on 9-of-13 shooting from the field, but the Buckeyes' offense couldn't keep up. With just 2:26 left, E'Twaun Moore made a contested righty jumper to cut the lead to 57-55. After Johnson scored to extend the lead to 60-55, Moore added another jumper and the Buckeyes shot 2-of-12 in the remaining 1:36.

The Buckeyes finished 11-of-26 from outside and 22-of-59 from inside but committed eight turnovers and went 20-of-30 from the foul line to give Ohio State its first 16 points in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 4-of-10 from outside in the first half and 5-of-15 in the second. They shot 3-of-9 from inside in the first half and 11-of-26 in the second. They were 2-of-7 from outside and 3-of-12 from inside in the second half.

The Buckeyes trailed 37-35 in the second half and 43-37 in the fourth quarter.

The Buckeyes shot 6-of-12 from outside in the first half, but 2-of-10 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 5-of-10 from inside in the first half and 11-of-24 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 5-of-10 from outside in the first half and 5-of-11 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 3-of-10 from inside in the first half and 14-of-24 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 4-of-10 from outside in the first half and 10-of-15 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 5-of-10 from outside in the first half and 9-of-15 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 1-of-3 from inside in the first half and 4-of-12 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 1-of-3 from outside in the first half and 4-of-11 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 6-of-10 from inside in the first half and 16-of-34 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 2-of-3 from outside in the first half and 6-of-16 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 7-of-13 from inside in the first half and 19-of-40 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 3-of-8 from outside in the first half and 2-of-9 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 4-of-13 from inside in the first half and 11-of-26 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 1-of-2 from outside in the first half and 1-of-5 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 2-of-8 from inside in the first half and 1-of-5 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 5-of-10 from outside in the first half and 3-of-6 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 1-of-3 from inside in the first half and 3-of-11 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 1-of-2 from outside in the first half and 1-of-5 in the second half.

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The Buckeyes shot 4-of-10 from inside in the first half and 11-of-34 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 3-of-10 from outside in the first half and 7-of-19 in the second half.

The Buckeyes shot 1-of-2 from inside in the first half and 1-of-3 in the second half.

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The Buckeyes shot 4-of-11 from inside in the first half and 18-of-52 in the second half.

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Not horsing around

By Nick Gans

Last year, the pommel horse was a weak link for the Iowa men's gymnastics team. But with the emergence of junior Mike Jiang and sophomore Kamille Wahlin, that is no longer the case. Iowa gymnasts and coaches expect to see the pommel horse as the team's strength.

The development of Jiang and Wahlin has helped catapult the No. 5 Hawkeyes. Iowa has ranked as high as No. 3 and has only one setback this season. The wrestling staff knew it had to be addressed.

The change for the eighth-ranked Iowa men's team from a year ago is credited to the hard work and approach of the Iowa gymnasts, said associate head coach Dmitri Trouch.

He said the expectations on the pommel horse is to be in great shape, come up with dynamic routines, and perform flawless combinations. This is the case with the Hawkeyes.

With the emergence of Jiang and Wahlin, one of the weaknesses this season is something that is no longer the case.

To show any doubt in himself days ago. The wrestler didn't feel he's good.

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Claymore's football
Claymore may plead guilty

Hamline defensive end and
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80 HOURS ON AIR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010

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Finding a 'Wonderful Town'

Despite financial troubles, the Iowa City Community Theatre will present the musical Wonderful Town.

By JOSIE JONES
josie-jones@uiowa.edu

Lauren Baker has bruised knees. Playing the humorous main character of Ruth in Iowa City Community Theatre's production of Wonderful Town requires her to fall down a lot. While her role also entails singing and dancing — talents that she possesses — she understated the struggle it took to get into character.

"At first I wasn't sure if [the role] was going to be right for me," she said. "But, boy, am I this character. It's kind of weird how similar we are. Seeing stuff come together as a whole has really helped me to go from understanding it to living it."

Wonderful Town will grace the stage today at the Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington St. The musical will continue through Feb. 21 with Thursday through Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and the Feb. 21 show at 2:30 p.m. Admission ranges from $10 to $17.

Wonderful Town is a contrasting piece that follows the story of two sisters from Ohio who move to Greenwich Village in hopefuls of making it big during the Great Depression. Ruth is an aspiring writer who can't keep a man's attention. Eileen is a beautiful actor and dancer who has men falling at her feet — even Irish policemen. The sisters experience the Big Apple, learning different lessons along the way.

The musical production almost didn't come to fruition in Iowa City. On Nov. 5, 2009, director Ben Bentler received a phone call from Community Theatre telling him it was going to cancel the show for financial reasons. But because Bentler had worked on the play since the summer, he wasn't going to let the lack of money dampen his passion.

With help from music director Ed Kottick and choreographer Jill Beardsley, they raised $11,000 for the show. The donations had a large base — both local community members and businesses contributed.

Despite financial troubles, the Iowa City Community Theatre will present the musical Wonderful Town.

SEE WONDERFUL. 6B

ON THE WEB


FROM THE BLOG

Click on dailylowmanarts.blogspot.com to read Arts reporter Hanna Rosman's "live" commentary on Men's figure skating.

FROM THE BLOG

Andrew Saito's Stegosaurus (Or) Our Golden Years explores the different ways humans are hurting the planet and putting strain on the environment.
The winding road to writing

Geoffrey Becker focuses on life's uncertainties with fluidity in Hot Springs.

By REBECCA KOONS

All it took was two short stories. What began as work about those three people in a broken-down car in New Mexico and the acquaintances of an overweight, brushy-haired man living in Baltimore provided a portion of the starting point to Geoffrey Becker's latest novel, Hot Springs.

"I knew I wasn't done with the characters," Becker, 59, said. He will read from Hot Springs at 7 p.m. Friday at Prairie Lights Books, 15 S. E 105 Adler.

In the book, the story of a named Bernice Clark, who is reclusive in her desire to reclaim the child she gave up for adoption five years earlier. With her boyfriend in tow, she accomplishes her mission, but she is more filled with doubt and uncertainty about her situation — stemming from her mother's tendency toward manic episodes.

By becoming a writer was not a conscious decision for Becker, followed several other paths in life. He worked in music, theater, and law at various points. Having read all the time as a child and taken writing classes in his undergraduate years at Colby College, in Maine, he said, he "vaguely entertained the idea that I might someday become a 'real' writer" but didn't know how to go about it.

He eventually hit his stride some years later in New York City, when he began writing again while working several different jobs. The renewed interest in writing led him to pen more short stories, participate in workshops, and, ultimately, attend the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Along the way, he began getting some of his work published to complete than Becker's previous work, because it is a much bigger piece. From original manuscript to final rewrite, he took approximately five years to finish the novel, all the while trying to maintain a sense of movement.

"I'm challenged by trying to keep everything moving — plot, character, setting, theme — in some sort of pointed, compelling way," he said. "I find it rewarding if I feel I've accomplished that." Becker says he is compelled to edit his work, although he admits it can become a bit out of hand at times. He feels his work as a writer is interactive, and he loves the challenge of trying to demonstrate that in the work he writes.

Becker's editor, Meg Storey of Maryland Teaching allows him to interact with students to see a large-scale project not based on a deadline, he said.

"Very often, students work on short-term projects," he said. "It's healthy for students to see work that's taken a long time to create."

Many group exhibits have included her body of work, nine years in the making. Although the work has occasionally been hung up for many reasons, including evolving concept from the beginning, Kelli Connell has never shown it all together. She has decided to do so this year.

The Assistant professor, has displayed the Texas native's work in his classes for many years, because he finds the work conceptually interesting. It's beneficial to photography students to see a large-scale project not based on a deadline, he said."

"Many group exhibits have included her body of work, nine years in the making. Although the work has occasionally been hung up for many reasons, including evolving concept from the beginning, Kelli Connell has never shown it all together. She has decided to do so this year.

"What I have to say is what I call 'double life.'," Connell said. "People find her work interesting in earlier and later photo."
By SARAH LARSON

By Marisa Way

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Jerry Gabriel will read from Drowned Boy tonight at Prairie Lights.

The experience of being on tour has definitely been interest-
ing for Velvet Davenport — even if

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Way over the top with ‘Taboo’

Dreamwell Theatre opens its Taboo Bijou season with a show that ‘makes you think while you’re groaning.’

By JOSIE JONES

Think of a singing penis, a Heisman Trophy, and a comb phone. Think Poona the Fuckdog.

“It’s so over the top,” codirector and actor Brian Tanner said, describing the play. “But it seemed like something that would be really fun to do. It didn’t feel exploitative for the sake of being offensive — there was some substance to the script, too. It kind of makes you think while you’re groaning.”

Poona will open at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 10 S. Gilbert St. The play will continue through Feb. 27 with Friday and Saturday shows beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $8 for students, $10 for seniors, and $12 for general audiences.

The theme of Taboo Bijou looks at current plays that push boundaries and limits by being controversial and confronting subjects that are often difficult or inappropriate to discuss.

The title of the play makes it obvious that Poona is for mature audiences because of explicit language and adult situations. If people will be bothered by the play, Dobbs said, they’re going to know right away not to attend. Poona has a direct connection to Iowa City — the playwright, Jeff Goode, also co-founded No Shame Theatre.

Although Goode wrote the play 11 years ago, the directors said the cultural references don’t seem to be dated too much. The play explores themes with post-9/11 terrorism and how video-game violence leads to desensitization. Dobbs and Tanner said such scenes leave them mesmerized.

Despite having an avant-garde theme, the set and costumes of Poona don’t fit the extravagant stereotype one would expect. Tanner said the focus is rather on the characters and script.

In a community that Dobbs feels is open to new types of art, she said the audiences will be able to connect with the play.

“This is an Iowa City play,” she said. “Not that it doesn’t speak to other audiences elsewhere; it’s hard to imagine people who wouldn’t enjoy it.”

PLAY

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m. through Feb. 27.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Society, 10 S. Gilbert St.

Admission: $8, students; $10, seniors; $12, general audiences.
**Porn riles ‘Big Nanny’**

Kitschy porn moves the university toward censorship.

**CAROLINE BERG**

made her through an extended stay with the cast and the musicians.

Wearing a red prom dress, she was the only person who could fit in the back of the truck.

Bentler’s mother was a soprano, and she taught him to sing as a child. She encouraged him to become a musician first. "When I was young, I was always interested in music," he said. "It was always a part of my life."

Despite this interest, Bentler didn’t pursue music professionally until he was 19, when he moved to Iowa City.

One day, while walking through the city, he noticed a poster for a production of "Wonderful Town." The show was directed by Leonard Bernstein, who Bentler greatly admired.

Incredibly, Bentler ended up getting a job as a music director for the show, helping to bring it to life on stage.

"It was a dream come true," he said. "It was the best experience of my life."
Horoscopes

TODAY, Thursday, February 9, 2006

AQUARIUS
You will be faced with both negative and positive reactions and must be prepared to sway the people who don’t agree with you. An interfering partner will develop.

PISCES
You’ve got both innate and positive traits and must be prepared to sway the people who don’t agree with you. At this time, you must be prepared to sway the people who don’t agree with you.

TODAY, Thursday, February 9, 2006

GEMINI
A residential move will help solve some problems.

CANCER
There is money to be made if you decide to buy, sell, or invest in new beginnings are always difficult, but they can be

LEO
Don’t let anyone make you feel guilty about your income. You are entitled to do all you can to increase your income, and you will bring greater wealth.

VIRGO
Look for an unusual opportunity to raise your income.

LIBRA
You’ll be faced with both negative and positive reactions and must be prepared to sway the people who don’t agree with you. At this time, you must be prepared to sway the people who don’t agree with you.

SCORPIO
The zoo will not take a change in the way you feel about your income. Don’t let anyone make you feel guilty about your income.

SAGITTARIUS
You will be faced with both negative and positive reactions and must be prepared to sway the people who don’t agree with you. An interfering partner will develop.

CAPRICORN
You’ve got both innate and positive traits and must be prepared to sway the people who don’t agree with you. At this time, you must be prepared to sway the people who don’t agree with you.

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